

Federal Acquisition Service at the General Services Administration. I want to thank him for his years of public service and his leadership at the Department of Homeland Security.

Since May 2003, Mr. Williams has managed a team to create and maintain the US-VISIT program, a critical border management program that collects point-of-entry and exit information on visitors traveling to and from the United States. The program uses biometric identifiers and digital photographs to aid legitimate tourists, students and business travelers entering the United States, while making it more difficult for those who might do harm to the United States or enter and stay in the country illegally. Though the job of completing the full installation of US-VISIT program is still underway, so far, in two and a half years, it has processed nearly 60 million visitors to date and denied entry to more than 1,100 criminals and immigration violators at our ports of entry, reduced wait times at several land border ports of entry, and provided information to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement leading to the apprehension of more than 200 aliens who overstayed their visas.

Mr. Williams has been a model public servant and leader. He has left a tremendous imprint on the US-VISIT program, and on the many people who work with him at US-VISIT and across the government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join me in a salute to Jim Williams and the talented team at US-VISIT.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, had bad weather not delayed my flight back to Washington on Monday, (June 19, 2006), my votes on the following rollcall votes would have been as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 289, H.R. 5540—"yes".

Rollcall vote No. 290, H.R. 5504—"yes".

HOUSTON ASTROS VISIT WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 23, 2006, for the second year in a row, I joined many of my colleagues from our Texas Congressional Delegation at a barbeque hosted by the Houston Astros and the USO for injured soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Hospital. The team held a similar event at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. I cannot speak highly enough of the Astros' players, managers, staff, and the owner Drayton McLane for taking time to visit the wounded troops.

Until the Astros hosted the event last year, no other Major League teams had done such an event, and while many players have visited since last years' barbeque, the Astros are the only team to visit the troops as a group. It was remarkable to see players interacting with the

troops—many of whom are close in age—and each taking away something valuable from the experience.

The troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda are among the most seriously wounded, many being injured by improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenades, and other battlefield hazards. Many are confined to beds, wheel chairs, or rehabilitation facilities, and the opportunity to be outside having lunch with Major League Baseball players was a tremendous morale boost. The Astros' organization provided hats, and players autographed items and took photos with the troops, but most importantly, they spent time talking with the injured soldiers.

After last years visit, Astros' players commented in several newspaper columns on the optimism of the wounded soldiers and the perspective visiting with the soldiers gave them. Mr. McLane said it was the most moving experience in his 12 years of owning the team.

With Memorial Day weekend approaching, I think it is important that we all realize what a sacrifice the men and women of our Armed Forces make each and every day. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

The men and women of our military endure a tremendous burden so that we may enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted. It was an honor to join the Astros' organization at Walter Reed and it reminded each person there that war has a price. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the sacrifices they have made for our Nation, it is especially important that we do so on Memorial Day.

To use an appropriate metaphor, the Astros' stepped up to the plate for our injured troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda. On this Memorial Day, let's follow their example. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers, and remember the sacrifices so many have made to defend our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW BRADFORD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Bradford, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Bradford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work being done by Bayaud Industries, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating employment and training services to individuals with mental, emotional, physical, and economic disabilities and challenges in the City of Denver and throughout Colorado. Celebrating its 37th anniversary this year, Bayaud has been able to help over 5,000 individuals find jobs and currently serves over 300 each year.

Bayaud uses an integrated approach to help those who have had minimal success in the mainstream work environment mostly because of the stigma associated with disability and mental illness. This approach includes a comprehensive vocational evaluation to assess skills and capabilities, work adjustment and personal adjustment training, and general office skills training. Bayaud also provides job placement services for its clients, and even works with the City of Denver to help move people from welfare to work.

Helping those who are disabled to find and keep work is good for both individuals and our economy. Employment gives people a sense of accomplishment and the satisfaction that they are contributing to their community. Sadly, according to the National Mental Health Association, "the unemployment rate in the United States for individuals with disabilities is approximately 75 percent; the unemployment rate for individuals with psychiatric disabilities is even higher at 80 percent." With training and assistance from organizations like Bayaud, people with disabilities are able to hold a job and contribute to the economy of our country.

Mr. Speaker, Bayaud Industries should be considered a model for how we help all our citizens become productive. Bayaud is ensuring that the disabled of my community are able to play a vital role. I commend the important work this organization is doing and I know that both those in the disabilities and business communities have benefited greatly from the good work it has done for over the past 37 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, I was absent due to a family obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

"Aye" on rollcall No. 295, an amendment by Mr. SCHIFF to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 296, an amendment by Mr. KING to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 297, an amendment by Mr. CHOCOLA to H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 298, an amendment by Mr. FLAKE, No. 2 to, H.R. 5631, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007.